## Health & Medical Area Command







### Planning for Flooding of the Green River Valley:

Personal Preparedness Tips for Home Health & Home Care Patients

The US Army Corps of Engineers has alerted the region that the Howard Hanson Dam has structural integrity issues that will limit the volume of water that can be stored behind it this year, and possibly several years.

Parts of the cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton and Tukwila are facing a high potential for devastating floods this fall. Areas of unincorporated King County may also be impacted. If heavy and prolonged rain occurs during the flood season (roughly October through March), many homes and businesses in the Green River Valley that do not flood could flood as high as 10 feet. In addition, the water will remain in the Valley until it can be pumped out - a process that could take up to 8 weeks.

Based on your location in the Green River Valley, we encourage you to prepare for a high risk of flooding and a lengthy recovery.

Residents who live in Auburn, Kent, Renton or Tukwila and areas of unincorporated King County should prepare for:

- . mild to severe flooding
- . loss of electricity
- . loss of sewer service
- . road closures

Take the following actions now to prepare for this risk:

# If you live in the Green River Valley, buy flood insurance.

It takes 30 days for a policy to take effect, so contact your insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program: <a href="https://www.floodsmart.gov">www.floodsmart.gov</a>, 1-888-379-9531. Ensure your policy covers damage due to sewage back-up.

### Create a relocation plan.

You may not be able to return to your home for weeks or months. Develop a plan now for where you will live and receive care. Make sure all your caregivers know the details of this plan. If you have pets do not leave them behind. Arrange a safe place for your pets to stay.

# Develop a communication plan.

If the event you evacuate, be sure to contact caregivers, medical insurance providers, and other people you depend on to let them know where you have evacuated to and how they can contact you.



POSSIBLE FLOODING

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### Prepare an evacuation plan.

You may have as little as 8 hours notice to evacuate. Work with your neighbors, loved ones and caregivers to make sure you have the following:

- An emergency "Go-Kit". (See list of items to include in your emergency Go-Kit →)
- Important items stored in a convenient, secure place so you can quickly and easily get to them. These items include:
  - Cell phone and charger
  - Dentures
  - Hearing aids & extra batteries
  - Wheelchair, cane, walker, crutches or other mobility aids
  - Respirator
  - Eye glasses and/contact lenses with cleaning solution
  - A battery or crank-operated AM or NOAA weather radio for urgent weather alerts.
- Reliable transportation if you need to evacuate. Talk with your loved ones and caregivers now to develop a plan for safely evacuating you from your home to a safe location. If you require a trained medical transportation service to evacuate, ensure your home health agency has notified Public Health – Seattle & King County in advance.
- An evacuation route. Work with your evacuation transportation provider to map out evacuation routes that are not dependent on State Route 167 or other roads located along the Green River Valley floor. Remember, roads that you regularly use may be closed due flooding. So, evacuate when ordered to avoid being trapped and in a dangerous situation!

# Assemble an accessible and easily transportable "Go-Kit" with the following items:

- Medications
- List of names and phone numbers of important people such as caregivers, key friends and family members, medical insurance providers and home/renters insurance providers.
- Health information such as copies of prescriptions, list of medical conditions, and name and contact information of your doctors and caregivers
- Change of clothes
- 3 days worth of food and beverages
- Extra batteries for oxygen, breathing devices, hearing aids, cochlear implants, cell phone or other critical devices. Note: consider purchasing a marine battery to keep electrically dependent medical equipment working for several hours.

For more information contact your city's office of emergency management:

City of Auburn: 253-876-1925

City of Kent: 253-856-4440

City of Renton: 425-430-6400

City of Tukwila: 206-433-1800

Unincorporated

King County: 206-296-3830